

## RADIO TV REPORTS, IN

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FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF

PROGRAM Sunday Morning

STATION WDVM-TV  
CBS Network

DATE July 17, 1983 10:00 A.M. CITY Washington, D.C.

SUBJECT Frank Snepp

DIANE SAWYER: Frank Snepp once worked for the Central Intelligence Agency in Vietnam. He wrote a book about the fall of Vietnam and what he and the agency did there. The CIA sued and the Supreme Court said he shouldn't have written anything without CIA permission. When that ruling came down in 1980, a lot of people worried that it was stepping on freedom of speech, an issue still. So we thought we'd repeat the profile Eric Engberg brought us of the man who started it all, Frank Snepp.

ERIC ENGBERG: On this winter night at a small Mid-western college, a spy comes in from the cold, briefly, to talk about a losing war that for him has never ended.

FRANK SNEPP: One February morning in 1978, a journalist called me at my Arlington apartment to give me some chilling news. The government, he said, was suing me for a book I'd written about my former employer, the CIA, even though nobody had accused me of packing any secrets between its covers.

Well, two years later, after debilitating legal battle, the Supreme Court rendered final verdict in my case, handing down a ruling that did as much damage to the first amendment as it did to me.

ENGBERG: Frank Snepp had written his expose, "Decent Interval," in the white heat of anger over the evacuation of Saigon. His bosses, he claimed, had bungled. Secrets and secret agents had been compromised.

But Snepp himself became the central issue after then-CIA Director Stansfield Turner charged that by publishing without agency approval, the ex-spy had hurt the country.